

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8224

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 5911

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, UN, JA

SUBJECT: FRENCH- SOVIET RELATIONS

1. DURING REVIEW OF CURRENT FRENCH- SOVIET RELATIONS WITH
EMBOFF MARCH 8, QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR USSR/ EE AFFAIRS OMNES
MADE FOLLOWING POINTS.

2. BILATERAL CONTACTS. OMNES SAID RELATIONS WITH USSR,
AS WELL AS EE IN GENERAL, HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY INACTIVE
PENDING COMPLETION OF FRENCH LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS. NONE-
THELESS, QUAI DEPUTY POLITICAL DIRECTOR ARNAUD HAD USEFUL
TALKS ON CSCE WITH SENIOR SOVIET MFA OFFICIALS KUZNETSOV
AND DUBYNIN (ON THESE, OMNES OFFERED NOTHING NOT REPORTED
IN HELSINKI 0299). NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO MOSCOW VIMONT
HAD USEFUL " INITIAL TALKS WITH GROMYKO AND KOVALEV.
SOVIETS REPORTEDLY REITERATED TO VIMONT THEIR PERSISTENT
PLEA FOR MOVING BILATERAL RELATIONS TO VER- HIGHER STAGE
OF COOPERATION, WHILE VIMONT GENERALLY EXPRESSED SATIS-
FACTION WITH RELATIONS AS THEY ARE. OMNES INDICATED
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THAT DEP FONMIN KOZYREV WOULD VISIT PARIS IN NEXT FEW WEEKS FOR CONSULTATIONS UNDER 1970 PROTOCOL AND THAT " NEXT FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER" (SIC) WOULD VISIT MOSCOW IN MAY OR JUNE. EMBOFF ASKED ABOUT RECENT LOCAL RUMOR THAT BREZHNEV MIGHT STOP OVER IN PARIS IN COURSE OF HIS VISIT TO US THIS YEAR. OMNES FIRMLY DENIED ANY SUCH STOPOVER PRESENTLY CONTEMPLATED.

3. RESTRUCTURING TIES? THOUGH HE EMPHASIZED GOF DISINCLINATION TO ELEVATE TIES WITH SOVIETS TO HIGHER LEVEL, OMNES SAID QUAI STUDYING WAYS TO " INCREASE EFFICIENCY" OF PRESENT NETWORK OF GRANDE AND PETITE COMMISSIONS AND OTHER ROUTINE CONTACTS. FRENCH GENERALLY BELIEVE EXISTING NETWORK OF TIES RESPONDS TO BUREAUCRATIC REQUIREMENTS OF DEALING WITH SOVIET ESTABLISHMENT BUT ARE TAKING FRESH LOOK AT THIS PROBLEM. (COMMENT: AMBASSADOR VIMONT MAY HAVE ASKED QUAI TO DO THIS.) OMNES SAID FRENCH FINANCE MINISTER WOULD GO TO MOSCOW IN MAY OR JUNE FOR MEETING OF GRANDE COMMISSION, FOLLOWING PETITE COMMISSION SESSION IN PARIS YET TO BE SCHEDULED.

4. SOVIET- JAPANESE RAPPROCHEMENT? OMNES EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST IN RECENT BREZHNEV RECEPTION OF JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO MOSCOW -- NOTING THAT HERETOFORE FRENCH AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN ONLY NON- COMMUNIST ENVOY RECEIVED BY BREZHNEV. HE WONDERED WHETHER JAPANESE MAY NOW BE TURNING TOWARD SOVIETS AFTER ANGLING TO IMPROVE RELATIONS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE WITH CHINESE OVER PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. HE THOUGHT JAPAN MIGHT ALSO BELIEVE TIME RIPE FOR STRENGTHENING TIES WITH SOVIETS BEFORE BREZHNEV VISITS TO WEST THIS YEAR, WHEN LARGE- SCALE COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS OF INTEREST TO JAPANESE INDUSTRY MAY BE SIGNED.

GDS.
KUBISCH

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